

Amendments to the Claims:

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A stackable winding core of claim 2, wherein the core comprises comprising:

an inner paperboard tube having a radially outer surface and a radially inner surface;
an outer paperboard tube having a radially outer surface and a radially inner surface;
the inner paperboard tube being coaxially disposed within [[an]] the outer paperboard
tube such that the radially outer surface of the inner paperboard tube forms an interface with the
radially inner surface of the outer paperboard tube;

the interface being devoid of adhesive and the inner paperboard tube being axially offset
with respect to the outer paperboard tube such that one end of the inner paperboard tube projects
beyond the outer paperboard tube and forms the a male end of the core and an opposite end of
the outer paperboard tube projects beyond the inner paperboard tube and forms the a female end
of the core, and the male end of one core is insertable into the female end of another core for
stacking the cores end-to-end.

5. (Currently Amended) The stackable winding core of claim [[[4]], further comprising:
a first stacking surface defined by one of the male and female ends, and a second stacking
surface defined by ~~the main portion at a first end of the main portion opposite from said one~~
adjacent the other of the male and female ends, the first and second stacking surfaces being
nonparallel to a longitudinal axis of the core and structured and arranged such that the first and
second stacking surfaces abut each other when the male end of the core is inserted in the female
end of another said core.

6. (Currently Amended) The stackable winding core of claim 5, wherein the first
stacking surface comprises an end surface of the ~~male end inner paperboard tube~~ and the second
stacking surface ~~is formed by a step between the inside diameter of the female end and the~~
~~cylindrical inner surface of the main portion~~ comprises an opposite end surface of the inner

paperboard tube.

7. (Currently Amended) The stackable winding core of claim 5, wherein the first stacking surface comprises an end surface of the ~~female end~~ outer paperboard tube and the second stacking surface ~~is formed by a step between the outside diameter of the male end and the~~ cylindrical outer surface of the main portion comprises an opposite end surface of the outer paperboard tube.

8. (Currently Amended) The stackable winding core of claim [[5]] 7, further comprising a third stacking surface formed by an end surface of the ~~female end~~ inner paperboard tube and a fourth stacking surface formed by ~~a step between the outside diameter of the male end and the~~ cylindrical outer surface of the main portion an opposite end surface of the inner paperboard tube, the third and fourth stacking surfaces being structured and arranged to abut each other when the male end is inserted into the female end of another said core.

9-12. (Canceled)

13. (New) The stackable winding core of claim 4, further comprising a fastener that affixes the outer tube and the inner tube together to prevent relative movement therebetween.

14. (New) The stackable winding core of claim 13, wherein the fastener comprises a staple.

15. (New) The stackable winding core of claim 4, wherein the inner paperboard tube comprises a spirally wound tube having a plurality of paperboard plies spirally wound one upon another and adhered together with adhesive, and the outer paperboard tube comprises a spirally wound tube having a plurality of paperboard plies spirally wound one upon another and adhered together with adhesive.